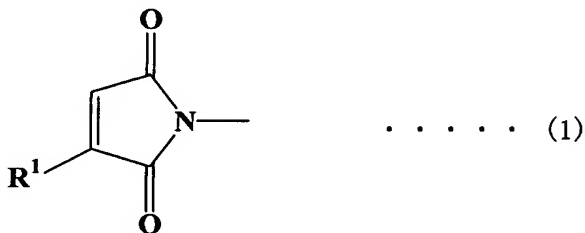


Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, comprising a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom.

Claim 2 (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, according to claim 1, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

Claim 3 (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, according to claim 2, in which said compound is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

(1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at

terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

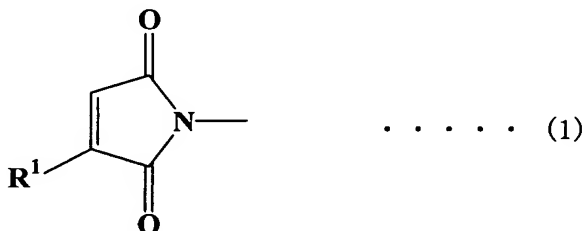
(2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more carboxyl groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more hydroxy groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

Claim 4 (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in which said compound is one having a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, comprising a substrate and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on the substrate by coating onto the substrate ~~the pressure-sensitive adhesive defined in any one of claims 1-4, and irradiating said coating with an active energy beam to crosslink or cure said coating~~ a pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, and irradiating said coating with an active energy beam

to crosslink or cure said coating, in which said pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom.

Claim 6 (new): A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, according to claim 5, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

Claim 7 (new) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, according to claim 6, in which said compound is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

(1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

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(2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more carboxyl groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more hydroxy groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

Claim 8 (new): A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, according to any one of claims 5 to 7, in which said compound is one having a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000.